

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 COME-00 MCE-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-05

XMB-04 /094 W

-----127515 222259Z /41

R 221823Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1566

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS LONDON 20829

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, VE, UK

SUBJECT: UK AIRSHIP SALE TO VENEZUELAN COMPANY

REF: (A) CARACAS 12282 (NOTAL); (B) LONDON A-232,

3/23/76 (NOTAL); (C) CARACAS 4847, 4/30/76 (NOTAL);

(D) LONDON 7565, 5/14/76 (NOTAL); (E) LONDON A-370,

5/18/76 (NOTAL)

1. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL (A) REQUEST, EMBASSY ONCE AGAIN CONTACTED JOHN WOOD, PARTNER IN FIRM AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENTS, 19/21 NEWBURY ST., LONDON EC1. WOOD STATES THAT INFORMATION ALREADY PROVIDED EMBASSY CARACAS IN REFERENCES (B), (D) AND (E) STILL ACCURATE. PRESENT STATUS OF PROJECT AS EXPLAINED BY WOOD CALLS FOR FIRST AIRSHIP TO BE COMPLETED THIS SPRING AND TO UNDERGO CERTIFICATION TRIALS WITH UK CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY FOR GENERAL AVIATION PASSENGER CARRYING CERTIFICATION. INTENTION IS TO FLY AIRSHIP DIRECTLY TO BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, FOR USE IN TELEVISIONING JUNE 1978 WORLD CUP GAMES. FOLLOWING UNCLASSIFIED

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ITS USE IN ARGENTINA, IT IS TO BE TAKEN ON TO AUSTRALIA WHERE IT IS INTENDED TO USE IT IN TRIALS FOR AS LONG AS NINE MONTHS OF A COASTAL WATERS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM EMPLOYING SONABUOYS WITH RECEIVING AND MONITORING EQUIPMENT ABOARD THE AIRSHIP.

2. AS REPORTED IN 1976, THE COMPANY PURCHASING THE FIRST

AIRSHIP, AND WHICH ACCORDING TO WOOD HAS GIVEN HIS FIRM A LETTER OF INTENT FOR AN ADDITIONAL 21 AIRSHIPS PROVIDING THE FIRST MEETS OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, IS AEROVISION, A FIRM JOINTLY OWNED BY PERUVIAN INVESTORS AND A SUBSIDIARY OF BANCO UNION OF VENEZUELA, SOFIN. PRESIDENT OF AEROVISION IS HECTOR DELGADO PARKER. WOOD SUGGESTS THAT INFORMATION ABOUT THE FIRM CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MR. JORGE SANCHEZ, SOFIN, APARTADO 16226, CARACAS 101, VENEZUELA, TELEX: 211359.

3. WOOD STATES THAT HIS FIRM HAS BEEN IN TOUCH FOR SOMETIME WITH GOODYEAR WITH WHOM HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO DEVELOP A JOINT VENTURE FOR SALES IN THE US MARKET. IN HIS VIEW THE MOST INTERESTING APPLICATION OF HIS FIRM'S AIRSHIP AT THE MOMENT IS IN COASTAL WATER SURVEILLANCE WORK. THE SYSTEM HIS FIRM IS DEVELOPING WOULD USE SONAR BUOYS MANUFACTURED BY EDMAC ASSOCIATES, INC., AT TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AND RECEIVING EQUIPMENT OF A CANADIAN COMPANY, CDC. WOOD SAID THAT THE PROJECT HAD ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ROBERT CRIDER OF US NAVY ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS OFFICE IN WASHINGTON.

4. DESIGN OF MODEL AD 500 AIRSHIP INCORPORATES NEW LIGHT WEIGHT MATERIALS SUCH AS MONOCOQUE STRUCTURE FOR GONDOLA COMPRISING A TWO LAMINATE GLASS REINFORCED PLASTIC/CARBON FIBER SHELL, VECTORED THRUST ENGINES WHICH ALLOW VTOL OR UNCLASSIFIED

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STOL OPERATION AS WELL AS LOADING AND DISCHARGE AT UNPREPARED SITES, AND IMPROVED POROSITY ENVELOPE FOR HELIUM CONTAINMENT. PLANNED CAPACITIES ARE: PASSENGERS, 8 TO 10; NOMINAL PAYLOAD, 2 METRIC TONS (STATIC LIFT); NORMAL RANGE, 300 NAUTICAL MILES; PATROL RANGE, 600 AT 38 KNOTS; MAXIMUM FERRY RANGE WITH RE-BALLASTING STOPS, 1,400; SPEEDS, 49 TO 62 KNOTS DEPENDING ON ENGINES INSTALLED. WOOD HAS FURNISHED EMBASSY WITH A BROCHURE GIVING DETAILED PLANNED SPECIFICATIONS ON AD500, A COPY OF WHICH COULD BE SENT TO EMBASSY CARACAS IF REQUESTED.

BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 CARACAS 12282, 77 LONDON A-232  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UK AIRSHIP SALE TO VENEZUELAN COMPANY  
**TAGS:** EAIR, BEXP, VE, UK  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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